

ADMINISTRATIVE —
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2 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Round Table Discussion at the School of Advanced
International Studies, 30 April, on the ABM Question.

Moderator: Ambassador George McGhee
Participants: Paul Nitze
Dr. Ralph Lapp
Dr. Wiesner, Department of Defense
William G. Miller, Sen. Cooper's Staff

The Round Table discussion was the usual lounge type program to which students of the school, alumni, and a few special guests of the Dean were invited. So far as I am aware there were no press representatives at the discussion.

Mr. Nitze and Dr. Wiesner spoke in favor of the administrations program. Dr. Lapp and Mr. Miller spoke against. Mr. Miller spoke in favor of delaying the ABM program until efforts to negotiate with the Soviets have been fully tested, while Dr. Lapp spoke against it more for technical reasons. Mr. Miller said that one reason for not going ahead at this time was that the assessments he had seen from the Department of State and others in the intelligence community, including the CIA, had not indicated that the Soviet Union had any intentions of making a nuclear first strike against the United States.

After each of the speakers had finished their presentations, the audience was allowed to ask questions. Former Secretary of State, Dean Acheson spoke in favor of the administrations proposal and was critical of Mr. Miller's suggestion for delay because he was convinced from experience that the Soviets would not be persuaded to halt their own nuclear build-up until they were convinced the United States would remain ahead of them indefinitely and their current policy, therefore, futile. He made no reference to the intelligence assessments Mr. Miller mentioned, nor did any of the other questioners. So far as I could determine the reference to CIA went by without creating any special impact.

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